

SOME NEW BOOKS.

The readers of The Tribune who enjoyed in its Sunday edition last summer some amusing letters from the New-England coast, will be glad to find them collected in a pretty volume under the title of "Teasing at Stony Beach." Miss Marie Louise Peal relates the adventures of her two heroines with a humor as vital and refreshing as the sea breezes which they sought; and she is hardly less successful in her bits of pathos. There is pure fun in her story, and some unusually acute and brilliant observations of character.

The Outline Company has brought out as the first volume of its "Library of Sports" a handsome record, by Valentine G. Hall, of "Lawn Tennis in America and England." The volume includes an account of the game, biographical sketches and portraits of the most distinguished American players, details of famous European matches, and excellent directions for playing the game. It is a book of exceeding value to the player.

In "Sernen Notes" (Funk & Wagnalls) Mr. Spergau concludes his various selections of outlines of his well-delivered addresses—outlines which are calculated to assist his clerical brethren in the preparation of sermons.

Thomas Whittaker has brought out a pretty little edition of Dean Carrington's translations from the poems of Victor Hugo.

Mr. Oscar Fay Adams and Dr. Rolfe have carefully edited for school reading and study a volume of selections from William Morris's "Earthly Paradise" (Tichener & Co.). These selections include "Atlanta's Race," "The Proud King" and "The Writing on the Image," with Prologue, Preludes, Interludes, etc. A sketch of the poet, some critical discussion of his style and a number of useful notes accompany the text.

A third edition of Mr. E. W. Boyd's little book on "English Cathedrals" has been published by Thomas Whittaker. It is a very useful companion in a foreign tour.

The late Robert Carter's "Summer Cruise on the Coast of New-England" (Cupples & Hurd) was originally published in the shape of letters to The Tribune. The charm of their humor is as fresh as when they first appeared; the yachtsman and fisherman cannot but find perennial delight in it. It ought not to be forgotten that in these pages is enshrined the inimitable spirit of the big boats and the Bait-snares.

A cheaper edition (the fourth) of Mr. Laurence蕙ton's valuable book, "Literary Landmarks of London," has been published by Tichener. This edition has revisions and additions and is in excellent shape for the constant use of the pilgrim in London.

The Rev. E. L. Catts has added to the series of "Historic Towns" (Longmans, Green & Co.), edited by E. A. Freeman and W. Hunt, an interesting volume on one of the quaintest and most ancient of English towns—Colchester.

A little book of the anecdotes told by soldiers of the Revolution has been brought from the press of Lee and Shepard under the title of "Noble Deeds of Our Fathers." It is a judicious and improving collection.

"In Nesting Time," by Olive Thorne Miller (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.), is a record of careful and most sympathetic observations of bird-life and habit, by a genuine lover of nature. It is a truly charming chronicle, and the reader is sure to fall in love with a number of the feathered creatures, who so ingeniously and freely develop their pretty ways and odd inclinations before the loving and admiring watcher, who played the part of Boswell to the little fellows. Few clever or fuller studies of our song-birds have been made than are contained in this volume.

A. C. Armstrong & Son publish "Sacred History from the Creation to the Giving of the Law," by the late Professor Humphrey, of the Danville Theological Seminary. The object of the author was to explain the various perplexing passages of the earliest Scriptures of which infidels have made so much use, and by which devout readers have been so much disturbed. Of the result it may be said that while it will not probably convert any infidels, it will enlarge and strengthen the faith of believers. Perhaps that is as much as a writer on this subject at this day can reasonably expect.

Herbert Milton Sylvester has followed up "Priso Pastors" with "Homestead Highways" (Boston: Tichener & Co.), in which he preserves the same general directions, giving studies of nature which are full of charm, but diversifying them with pleasant descriptions of country life, institutions and customs, arranged according to the seasons. It is New-England country life which is described, and no doubt many who have lost touch with that quiet, wholesome existence will feel themselves brought close to it once more in reading Mr. Sylvester's pages.

Under the head "Martin Luther, and Other Essays," a number of papers by F. H. Hedge are gathered (Boston: Roberts Brothers). They deal with theological and historical subjects mainly, and are characterized by a sober reasonableness and a certain breadth of view. When the author wrote the article entitled "Gnosticism," however, he does not seem to have quite made up his mind what he should take of it, and the result is rather bewildering than helpful.

A new edition of Charles Darwin's "Journal of Researches," kept during the cruise of the Beagle, has appeared (T. Nelson & Sons), showing the demand that still is felt for this, the earliest of the great naturalist's publications. In fact, "The Journal" is one of the most interesting records of travel extant, and its steady popularity indicates perhaps an increasing taste for sound and useful reading.

"The Ancient World and Christianity," by E. De Pressense, has been translated by Annie Shawdon Holmden, and published by A. C. Armstrong & Son. This is one of the books produced by the conflict between Christianity and science, but is much better, and less ephemeral in its character, than the majority of such books. It is the aim of the learned author to show that theism is not only not opposed to science, but that it is a natural intuition of the human mind. This he does by tracing the history of the race from the earliest times and proving that in every age it has had aspirations for a life beyond the grave. The argument is of course somewhat hackneyed, and would at best have little weight with a pure materialist. But it is presented in a very attractive form by Dr. Pressense, and those whose faith in Christianity is already nascent will find in this book much that is valuable, fresh and striking.

"Painting in Oil" by M. Louis McLaughlin (D. Clarke & Co.), is an intelligent, helpful little treatise, which should not be mistaken for one of the "ready guide" and "oil painting without a master" handbooks of large pretensions and small merit. Miss McLaughlin recognizes the development of the modern, or perhaps we may say the naturalistic, school of painting, and the changes in art instruction in the direction of breadth of effect, and greater simplicity and freedom; and in her notes upon techniques the superiority of effect over detail is properly emphasized. Her chapter upon light and color in their various relations, and her instances upon a simple palette set with honest, durable colors, are worth the attention of professional artists as well as amateurs. In addition to explanations of theories of light and color, and notes upon colors in nature, there are many practical suggestions, but Miss McLaughlin wisely avoids the common mistake of attempting to substitute handbook for personal instruction. She writes in the modern spirit, and the ideas which she advances are usually sound. There are the inevitable opportunities for disagreements and exceptions, but the book deserves commendation.

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